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The Council of Seventy.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

THE fourth annual meeting of the COUNCIL OF SEVENTY was held in Chicago on Tuesday, February 10, with a morning and an afternoon session. Thirty-six Members and Associate Members were in attendance, President Frank K. Sanders being in the chair. Resolutions were prepared expressive of the sorrow and regret of the COUNCIL at the death of two prominent members during the past year, Dr. John Henry Barrows and Professor George S. Burroughs. President Sanders in his address to the COUNCIL reviewed the progress which had been made during the past year in the field of Bible study, and spoke of the preparation for the Convention for Religious Education, the first session of which was to meet in the evening of the same day. After the usual annual reports were read, the subject of the work of the COUNCIL OF SEVENTY for the coming year was taken up. Later, special meetings of the Chambers were held for the election of officers, and for the discussion of problems which especially concerned the several Chambers. In the afternoon session the officers of the COUNCIL were elected. Upon recommendation of the Old Testament Chamber, Professor Edward T. Harper, Ph.D., was elected Master of the Chamber, and Professor George L. Robinson, Ph.D., was elected Scribe. For the New Testament Chamber, Professor E. D. Burton, D.D., was elected Master, and Professor D. A. Hayes, S.T.D., was elected Scribe. The officers of the General Chamber for the past year were continued in office, President Charles J. Little, D.D., as Master, and Professor George B. Foster, as Scribe. Upon the unanimous recommendation of the Chambers, the acting President of the COUNCIL, Dr. Frank K. Sanders, was elected President for the ensuing year. Professor C. W. Votaw, Ph.D., was re-elected as Recorder of the COUNCIL, and Professor H. L. Willett, Ph.D., was made Treasurer.

A motion of the New Testament Chamber was presented to the COUNCIL which urged the preparation by the Old Testament Chamber and the General Chamber of lists of books to be recommended for the study of the Bible and of Christianity, similar to the lists prepared by the New Testament Chamber, and published in 1900. This motion was

adopted. The New Testament Chamber asked permission to reissue its lists of books at five-year intervals with revision and annotations, which was approved.

The following resolution was presented, and on motion adopted : “ *Whereas*, The COUNCIL OF SEVENTY, with other persons, has issued a Call for a Convention to be held in Chicago, Ill., on February 10-12, 1903, for the promotion of religious and moral education ; therefore, *Resolved*, That the COUNCIL OF SEVENTY, conducting the AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF SACRED LITERATURE, hereby declares its desire to be associated with or recognized by any organization that may be established by the Convention only on the same basis as other organizations for the promotion of Bible study.” It was voted that this resolution be presented to the Convention by the President of the COUNCIL OF SEVENTY.

The following resolution was also adopted : “ In view of a proposed larger organization for the promotion of moral and religious instruction throughout the country, we declare our judgment that the work of the COUNCIL OF SEVENTY, directing the AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF SACRED LITERATURE, should still continue ; and we therefore request the Senate to prosecute the work along such lines and to such an extent as it may deem wise.”

THE CONVENTION FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.

In accordance with the Call issued by the COUNCIL OF SEVENTY on October 13, 1902, and under the auspices of the COUNCIL, a Convention was held in Chicago on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, February 10-12, 1903. The program as printed in the last number of the BIBLICAL WORLD was duly presented. The addresses were characterized by clearness of vision, sanity of thought, practical wisdom, and deep spirituality. There seemed to be a profound sense of the present need for better religious and moral instruction, and a unity of idea as to how the better instruction is to be attained. The interest and enthusiasm which were so marked in the first session, in the Auditorium on Tuesday evening, deepened and became clarified through every hour of the five subsequent sessions, until the climax was reached on Thursday afternoon. The constitution for the new organization presented by the Committee of twenty-one on Permanent Organization was adopted unanimously. There was no question raised as to the necessity of a new organization. The Convention seemed to have reached a com-

plete oneness of opinion as to the work required, and as to the best way of accomplishing it. The great field of activity which the COUNCIL had proposed for the new organization was clearly seen, and there was but one judgment as to the duty and desirability of taking up the task. The name of the new organization, as voted by the Convention, is "The Religious Education Association."

The officers recommended by the Committee of twenty-one on Nominations were elected by a unanimous vote. The officers (so far as elected) are as follows:

President—Professor Frank K. Sanders, Ph.D., D.D., Dean of the Yale Divinity School, New Haven, Conn.

Vice-Presidents—President Nicholas Murray Butler, Ph.D., LL.D., Columbia University, New York city; President James B. Angell, LL.D., University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.; Professor W. G. Ballantine, LL.D., Instructor of the Bible, International Y. M. C. A. Training School, Springfield, Mass.; Rev. William C. Bitting, D.D., Pastor Mount Morris Baptist Church, New York city; Rev. Amory H. Bradford, D.D., Pastor First Congregational Church, Montclair, N. J.; Mr. J. W. Carr, Superintendent of Schools, Anderson, Ind.; Professor Thomas F. Day, D.D., San Francisco Theological Seminary, San Anselmo, Calif.; Rev. George E. Horr, D.D., Editor of the *Watchman*, Boston, Mass.; Rev. Jesse J. Hurlbut, D.D., Pastor Methodist Episcopal Church, Morristown, N. J.; President William DeWitt Hyde, D.D., LL.D., Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Me.; President Burris Jenkins, Kentucky University, Lexington, Ky.; President Charles J. Little, D.D., Garrett Biblical Institute, Evanston, Ill.; Rev. S. J. McPherson, D.D., Head Master Lawrenceville School, Lawrenceville, N. J.; Rev. John Moore, Pastor First Methodist Episcopal Church, Dallas, Tex.; Professor James S. Riggs, D.D., Auburn Theological Seminary, Auburn, N. Y.; President Mary E. Woolley, Litt.D., Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Mass.

Treasurer—Mr. James Herron Eckels, President Commercial National Bank, Chicago.

Board of Directors—Mr. Herbert B. Ames, Montreal, Can.; Mr. Nolan R. Best, Editor of the *Interior*, Chicago; Rev. Nehemiah Boynton, D.D., Pastor First Congregational Church, Detroit, Mich.; Professor Edward L. Curtis, Ph.D., D.D., Yale Divinity School, New Haven, Conn.; Rev. Samuel A. Eliot, D.D., President Unitarian Association, Boston, Mass.; President R. D. Harlan, D.D., Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, Ill.; Rev. Pascal Harrower, Chairman Sunday-

School Commission of the Diocese of New York, West New Brighton, N. Y.; Professor J. I. D. Hinds, Ph.D., University of Nashville, Nashville, Tenn.; President Richard Cecil Hughes, Ripon College, Ripon, Wis.; Rev. C. E. Jefferson, D.D., Pastor Broadway Tabernacle, New York city; President R. J. Kelly, Earlham College, Richmond, Ind.; Rev. William M. Lawrence, D.D., Pastor Second Baptist Church, Chicago; Rev. William F. McDowell, Ph.D., Secretary of Education, Methodist Episcopal Church, New York city; Professor John E. McFadyen, Knox College, Toronto, Can.; Professor Walter Miller, Tulane University, New Orleans, La.; Professor Samuel C. Mitchell, Ph.D., Richmond College, Richmond, Va.; Rev. A. B. Philpott, D.D., Pastor Central Christian Church, Indianapolis, Ind.; President Albert Salisbury, State Normal School, Whitewater, Wis.; Rev. Charles H. Snedeker, Dean Saint Paul's Pro Cathedral, Cincinnati, O.; Rev. Floyd W. Tompkins, D.D., Rector Church of the Holy Trinity, Philadelphia, Pa. The Board of Directors consists not only of the twenty persons here named, but also of the President, first Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, all members of the Executive Board (named below), and one member from each state, territory, district, or province, having a membership of twenty-five or more in the Association. The state directors have not yet been appointed; neither has the Secretary of the Association.

Executive Board—President William L. Bryan, Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind.; Professor George A. Coe, Ph.D., Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.; Rev. Lathan A. Crandall, D.D., Pastor Memorial Baptist Church, Chicago; Rev. H. P. DeForest, D.D., Pastor Woodward Avenue Congregational Church, Detroit, Mich.; Mr. J. Spencer Dickerson, Editor of the *Standard*, Chicago; President Frank W. Gunsaulus, D.D., Armour Institute, and Pastor Central Church, Chicago; President Charles Cuthbert Hall, D.D., Union Theological Seminary, New York city; President William R. Harper, Ph.D., D.D., LL.D., University of Chicago, Chicago; Mr. N. W. Harris, Chicago; Mr. W. L. Hervey, Ph.D., Examiner Board of Education, New York city; Mr. Charles S. Holt, Chicago; Mr. J. L. Houghteling, Chicago; Mr. Charles L. Hutchinson, Chicago; President Henry Churchill King, D.D., Oberlin College, Oberlin, O.; Chancellor James H. Kirkland, Ph.D., LL.D., Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn.; Professor W. D. Mackenzie, D.D., Chicago Theological Seminary, Chicago; Rev. W. P. Merrill, Pastor Sixth Presbyterian Church, Chicago; Mr. L. Wilbur Messer, General Secretary

Y. M. C. A., Chicago; Mr. S. J. Moore, Toronto, Can.; Professor George L. Robinson, Ph.D., McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago; Professor H. L. Willett, Ph.D., University of Chicago, Chicago.

The report of the Committee of twenty-one on Resolutions was also adopted unanimously by the Convention. The main resolution, concerning the purpose and direction of the work of the Association, is as follows: "The Convention for Religious and Moral Education, meeting in Chicago on February 10, 11, and 12, 1903, hereby expresses the conviction that a forward movement is necessary in religious and moral education. Inasmuch as an important service can be rendered by co-operation of workers for the studying of problems, for furnishing information, for mutual encouragement, and for the promotion of higher ideals and better methods, a new organization for the United States and Canada has seemed desirable. The organization should be comprehensive and flexible. This will exclude advocacy of the distinctive views of any denomination or school of opinion; it will forbid the limitation of the work to any single phase of religious and moral education, as, for example, the Sunday school; it will prevent the control of the organization by any section of the country, by those interested in any single division of the work, or by those representing any one school of thought. It is not the purpose to publish a series of Sunday-school lessons or to compete with existing Sunday-school or other organizations; but rather to advance religious and moral education through such agencies."

The spirit, work, and result of the Convention were most satisfactory. The highest anticipations were realized, and the new organization enters upon its mission with the greatest hope and promise. According to the constitution adopted, all persons who are actively engaged in religious or moral education in whatever way are eligible to active membership in the Association (upon election by the Board of Directors), and are cordially invited to become members; also all other persons who, although not engaged directly in such educational work, are interested in this work, and desire to co-operate with and to promote it, are eligible to associate membership in the Association (upon election by the Board of Directors) and are cordially invited to become members. Both active and associate members pay an enrolment fee of One Dollar, and annual dues of Two Dollars each. It is desirable that the original list of persons should be as complete as possible, and therefore all persons who desire membership are invited to

send in their names with the enrolment fee to the Acting Secretary of the Association, Professor C. W. Votaw, the University of Chicago, Chicago.

The Proceedings of the Convention are to be published in full about April 1, and, according to the constitution, one copy of the Proceedings will be sent free to each member of the Association. Additional copies will be obtainable at a reasonable price, not only for members of the Association, but for the general public. The list of original members of the Association will be contained in the first annual volume of Proceedings.

An Official Document No. 3 is about to be issued containing full information of the Convention and of the Association, which can be had on application to the Acting Secretary.

It is most significant that the religious press of the country, and even the daily press, have shown an extraordinary interest in the present movement, and the Association which has been formed to carry it forward. Our readers will already have seen in their denominational papers or elsewhere an extended account of the addresses and actions of the Convention. A great deal of the uncertainty regarding the movement which existed before the Convention has been removed by the statements and explanations of the movement which the Convention afforded. There seems no reason why the Religious Education Association should not have the support and co-operation of all persons who are seriously laboring for the improvement of religious and moral education.